

The Listening Post

A newsletter from the Kentucky Talking Book Library

Number 52

Summer 2008

Patron Survey Results

KTBL received 344 responses to the 2008 Patron Survey. Thank you all for your participation and feedback. We continually strive to improve our services, and we need your cooperation to make that happen.

Sixty-six percent of respondents rate our service as “Excellent”, while 27 percent rate it as “Very Good”. Most patrons learn about Talking Books service through a family member or friend (29%), use the service for recreation (83%), and enjoy the convenience of the service (79 %). In selecting books, the majority of patrons are evenly divided between allowing the librarian to pick books based on their interests and using catalogs such as Talking Book Topics or Braille Book Review to make choices themselves (33% each). Twenty-six percent of respondents also use materials from the public library, while 14% purchase their own audiobooks. Regarding donations, most patrons favor using the funds to purchase Kentucky books to be recorded for our collection (31%), though more than a dozen people wrote in that funds should be spent however they are needed.

Questions relating to technology reveal that less than half of our patrons have access to computers (38%), resulting in little interest in online book discussion (8%). More than a quarter of patrons showed interest in meeting for book discussion at their local libraries (26%), though many wrote in that they could not participate because of transportation issues. Eighty-three percent of patrons own a VCR and/or a DVD player, and classic films edge out the competition for favorite genre with 39%. Finally, 37% of patrons can't wait to receive new Digital Talking Book players, while 32% are interested but can wait, and 22% have no interest in the new players at all. Seven percent are considering purchasing a compatible player so they can download books now.

Digital Books

The arrival of new Digital Talking Book players has been pushed back to early 2009. By law, honorably-discharged U.S. military veterans will receive players first, starting with those veterans who have been patrons the longest. If you are a veteran and haven't already informed us of your status, please contact the library at 1-800-372-2968. We do not have a list for patrons who are not veterans, but patrons are advised to keep their account in good standing if they want to receive a digital machine.

Our digital collection will initially include about 1300 books, with one copy of each title. While patrons will continue to receive their usual amount of cassette books, they may be limited to a lower quantity of Digital Talking Books during the beginning of the conversion process.

Donations

KTBL would like to thank the following people for making donations to our library. Your generosity makes our programs possible and is greatly appreciated by both staff and readers.

John M. & Anna J. Cook

Pauline Pope

William R. & Carolyn S. Hendrix

Fred B. Wachs, Jr.

Richard L. Owens

In Memory of Josephine Foster by Sharleen W. Power

In Memory of Joie Ray Stetson by Ruby Stetson, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Reco Bishop, Louise Raley, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Barber, Martha Hinton, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Davis, Corine Walker, Mr. & Mrs. John Keeling, and Lorraine Allen

If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. Please do not send cash through the mail. Donations are 100% tax deductible. The Talking Book Library does not solicit donations by phone or by mail. If you receive such a request, please be aware that it does not come from or benefit KTBL.

Overdues

You may think it is not a problem to have an overdue book, because you intend to return it eventually. However, overdues have a great impact on our library and your service because they really add up. As of June 13, 2008, 865 patrons had a total of 2,216 overdue books. Additionally, between June 1, 2007 and June 1, 2008, 1,049 talking books were lost from our library because they were never returned. Please check around your home to make sure all your books have

been returned within the one month loan period. You may call your librarian at 1-800-372-2968 to check the status of your account.

Having overdue prevents you from receiving your full number of books, they cause other patrons to wait a long time for that book, they are more likely to become lost the longer they are checked out, and they will cause you to wait longer for a new digital player. We will have fewer copies of each title during the transition to digital books. This will cause longer waiting lists for popular books, so it will be even more important to read and return each book promptly. KTBL does not have the staff, time, or money to continuously send overdue notices, so please be considerate of your fellow patrons.

Magazine Reminder

Since January 2008, Kentucky magazines are checked out to patrons with the same software used to check out books. KTBL can now track the status of each patron's Kentucky magazine subscriptions, and patrons will not receive the next issue until the previous one is returned. Since January, 80 patrons have overdue magazines and will miss their next issue. This policy affects Kentucky Living, Kentucky Monthly, Kentucky Afield, Audubon, Southern Living, Cat's Pause, Back Home in Kentucky, Kentucky Humanities, and The Listening Post on cassette.

E-mail

Does KTBL have your e-mail address? The Listening Post is available in an e-mail format, and some patrons find that it is easier for them to read than large print. Also, you can e-mail book requests or questions to your librarian. Their e-mail addresses are:

Barbara Penegor (Patrons A-F) – barbara.penegor@ky.gov

Janet Chisman (Patrons G-O) – janet.chisman@ky.gov

Jenny Paul (Patrons P-Z) – jennifer.paul@ky.gov

If you would like to sign up to receive the Listening Post as an e-mail, please e-mail your librarian or call the library at 1-800-372-2968.

Catalogs

Have you been receiving books you do not care for? Our librarians are glad to choose books for you, but each has over 1,000 patrons and must rely on a computer program to help them make selections by book type. Since we can only guess what you might like, you can expect that up to half the books you get may not interest you.

We encourage you to choose your own books to ensure you receive books you enjoy. We have two bi-monthly catalogs to help you find books you want to

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read. *Talking Book Topics* lists the newest cassette books. It is available in large print, on cassette, or online at <http://www.loc.gov/nls/tbt/index.html>. *Braille Book Review* lists the newest Braille books and is available in Braille, large print, or online at <http://www.loc.gov/nls/bbr/index.html>.

You may use the order forms included with the catalogs, or write the book numbers on a piece of paper, and mail your requests to us using free matter mailing. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. You are also welcome to call us with short request lists, or you may e-mail your list to your librarian. Call your librarian at 1-800-372-2968 to order, or to change the format of your catalogs.

Organizations for the Blind

At KTBL, we often field calls from patrons who need information about various organizations serving the blind. Below we have listed contact information for each group, as well as their prominent activities.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) – Founded in 1940, NFB is an advocacy organization with 55,000 members nationwide. In addition to public awareness, scholarships, and research initiatives, it operates NFB-Newsline, a news service for the legally blind that makes local and national newspapers available over the phone. KTBL patrons who are legally blind can sign up for Newsline by contacting the library. For information on local chapters, contact the national headquarters below.

Address: 1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230-4998

Phone: (410) 659-9314

E-mail: nfb@nfb.org

Online: <http://www.nfb.org>

American Council of the Blind (ACB) – Members include both sighted and blind individuals with an interest in the well-being and rights of the blind. Some of ACB's main areas of focus include education, legal advocacy, and public awareness. Their monthly newsletter, *The Braille Forum*, is available through their website or in Braille, cassette, large print, and e-mail formats. ACB also has local chapters around Kentucky.

Address: 1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1004
Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 467-5081

E-mail: info@acb.org

Online: <http://www.acb.org>

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) – Formed after World War II, BVA provides services for legally blind veterans regardless of whether they were blinded on duty or after completing their service. Their representatives, who are themselves blinded veterans, travel the country to counsel veterans and their families about rehabilitation services, assistive devices, and other programs.

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Their quarterly newsletter, BVA Bulletin, is available on their website, on cassette, and in large print.

Address: 477 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2694

Phone: (202) 371-8880

E-mail: bva@bva.org

Online: <http://www.bva.org>

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) – Since 1921, AFB has promoted technology and information to help the blind lead healthy, independent lives. They operate centers for literacy, vision loss, and employment and have a strong presence in public policy. Helen Keller worked with AFB for over 40 years, and archives devoted to her life and writings are housed in AFB's headquarters.

Address: 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 300
New York, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 502-7600

E-mail: afbinfo@afb.net

Online: <http://www.afb.org>

New DVDS

The titles below have been added to KTBL's descriptive DVD collection. These films have an additional audio track narrating the action on screen for those who cannot see it. Patrons who wish to check out descriptive DVDs or videos must complete a separate application. If you would like to fill out an application or place any of these films on your request list, please contact Greta Wise at 1-800-372-2968, ext. 279.

DVD-162 The Lady & the Highwayman – Historical romance with Hugh Grant

DVD-165 Becket – Historic drama about the Archbishop of Canterbury

DVD-166 Ballad of Andy Crocker – Vietnam drama with Lee Majors, Jimmy Dean

DVD-167 Dishonoured Lady – Murder mystery starring Hedy Lamarr

DVD-168 The Human Monster – London mystery with Bela Lugosi

DVD-169 I Cover the Waterfront – Classic drama with Claudette Colbert

DVD-170 Winterset – Burgess Meredith searches for his father's murderer

DVD-171 Palooka – Boxing drama with Jimmy Durante

DVD-172 Trinity Is Still My Name – Spaghetti western about two outlaw brothers

A Touch of Frost, Season Two—British Detective Jack Frost mystery series

DVD-173 Touch of Frost: A Minority of One

DVD-174 Touch of Frost: Widows & Orphans

DVD-175 Touch of Frost: Nothing to Hide

A special note on this month's book order: This month's selection of books, located on the inside back page, includes six titles that have also been made into films. If you enjoy reading them, we have descriptive film adaptations of each.

Important Items to Remember

Kentucky Talking Book Library

P.O. Box 537

Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

1-800-372-2968 (toll-free)

1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. EDT

You may leave a voice mail message after hours.

We want you to enjoy Talking Books. Your librarian will tailor your service to suit your needs. She will be happy to assist you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to call us for any of the following:

- **to make book requests**
- **with any questions or problems**
- **whenever your name, address, or telephone number changes**
- **to temporarily stop service**
- **if you want to change the types of books you get, or the number of books you receive**
- **when you have problems with books or machines**
- **if you want to change the format of your newsletters or catalogs**
- **to cancel your service**

Include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence, request lists, e-mails, and telephone messages. We frequently receive request lists with no name and no way to identify the sender.

Please return each book as soon as you finish it. The maximum loan period is 30 days.

Kentucky magazines and the cassette version of *The Listening Post* must be returned to KTBL within 30 days. Keeping the magazine or newsletter longer may prevent you from receiving future issues.

Remember to rewind all movies and cassette tapes before returning them.

Mark an "X" on the mail card of any defective book. Do not mark on the cassette.

Take care of all cassette books, Braille books, and cassette players; keep them free of food, liquids, dust, and debris.

Please keep this list for future reference.

Summer 2008 Book Order – From the Page to the Screen

If you would like to add any of these titles to your request list, please call your librarian at 1-800-372-2968, or check the boxes beside the titles and mail this sheet to: Kentucky Talking Book Library, P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker – The story of two African-American sisters--Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the South--is told through their letters to each other. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 10th Anniversary Edition. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1992.

☐ RC 58842 ☐ BR 12265

Shane by Jack Shaefer – Wyoming territory, 1889. A mysterious stranger named Shane rides into the Starretts' ranch and learns of trouble between cattle baron Fletcher and the homesteaders. Shane decides to stay and help the family keep their stake. Some violence. For senior high and older readers. 1949.

☐ RC 60163 ☐ BR 13561

Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand – Recounts the rise of an "undersized, crooked-legged" thoroughbred horse who in 1938 was the year's number-one newsmaker over Franklin Roosevelt, Hitler, and Lou Gehrig. Hillenbrand tells Seabiscuit's story through the three men who made a true long shot into a winner: owner Charles Howard, trainer Tom Smith, and jockey Red Pollard. Bestseller. 2001.

☐ RC 51968 ☐ BR 14930

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery – Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm in Canada. There she proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 1908. ☐ RC 56114 ☐ BR 10098

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde – First published in the late nineteenth century. A beautiful youth has his portrait painted by an artist with a flair for the morbid. The portrait becomes the mirror of its innocent-appearing subject's inner life. This Gothic melodrama created such a scandal that the author added a preface to defend his aesthetic philosophy, stating: "There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all." 1999. ☐ RC 56794 ☐ BR 09281

The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells – At forty, Sidda Walker is a famous theater director whose life spirals downward after a New York Times interview implies that her mother, Vivi, was a child abuser. Vivi immediately disowns Sidda, but the Ya-Yas, Vivi's longtime friends, intervene. Sequel to Little Altars Everywhere (☐ RC 36350). Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller, 1998. ☐ RC 45768 ☐ BR 14189



In providing information to readers of The Listening Post, the Kentucky Talking Book Library does not endorse any product or service referred to in this newsletter.

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**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND AND
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**



The Listening Post is available in large print, cassette, Braille, and e-mail formats. Call 1-800-372-2968 to request another format.

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